

# **Epiphany 3C. COCU11C 27 January 2019**

*The church is fitted with a hearing loop which covers the body of the church.  
Hearing aid wearers are advised to switch their aid to T-setting*

## **THE GATHERING OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD**

### **ORGAN PRELUDE**

*The people stand for the entrance of the Bible*

### **CALL TO WORSHIP**

Our land is alive with the glory of God;  
desert sands hum and gum trees dance,  
brown grasses sing  
and mountains breathe their stillness.  
All created things add their rhythms of delight  
and even stones rap out their praise.  
Let our voices mingle with those of the earth.  
May our hearts join the beat of her joy, for God is with us -  
the Source of all being surrounds and upholds us.  
Christ Jesus walks beside and before us.  
the Spirit moves within and between us.  
Blessed be God, our wonder and delight.

### **HYMN**

### **PRAYER OF ADORATION**

Spirit of the living God, we give you thanks for empowering us to claim membership in the body of Christ, a gift received through the fullness of grace. Together we suffer. Together we rejoice. We are united by you, in order that we might love and serve you. Spirit of the living God, we give you thanks for the interconnectedness of all creation. As any suffer, we all suffer. As any rejoice, we all rejoice. Inspire us with the company and courage of your Holy Spirit to truly live as one. **Amen.**

### **PRAYERS OF CONFESION**

As Ezra reminded the returning exiles of their identity as the people of God, they were deeply moved and wept, because they had forgotten about the mighty acts of God which had shaped them and their history.

**We confess, O God, that we also forget our identity as your people and so fail to witness to your activity in our lives.**

Ezra called on the people not to grieve their shortcomings but to celebrate their calling and their strength as the people of God.

**We confess that there are times when we concentrate on our weaknesses rather than rejoicing over our strengths.**

Jesus also reminded the people of his day of their responsibilities as the people of God and then told them “Today the scriptures have been fulfilled in your hearing.”

**We confess to finding the idea of “today” to be confronting, and to a tendency to postpone our calling to justice and compassion.**

Merciful God, anoint us with your Spirit so that the words of Scripture proclaimed by Jesus are heard by us today and acted upon by us today and fulfilled through our worship, witness and service today and in all the days that lie ahead. *A time of silence is kept for reflection.*

#### WORDS OF ASSURANCE

Hear these words of good news: today we are released from the burden of our past, set free to live in love and hope, with compassion for ourselves and others, as together we seek to be the body of Christ in the world. **Amen.**

#### THE SERVICE OF THE WORD

##### PRAYER FOR ILLUMINATION

In you, O Lord our God, we find our joy, for through your law and your prophets you formed a people in mercy and freedom, in justice and righteousness. Pour your Spirit on us today, that we who are Christ's body may bear the good news of your ancient promises to all who seek you. **Amen.**

##### FIRST READING Nehemiah 8: 1-3, 5-6, 8-10

In this is the word of the Lord.

**Thanks be to God.**

##### PSALM 19

The heavens declare the glory of God :  
**and the firmament proclaims his handiwork;**  
One day tells it to another :  
**and night to night communicates knowledge.**  
There is no speech or language :  
**nor are their voices heard;**  
Yet their sound has gone out through all the world :  
**and their words to the ends of the earth.**

There he has pitched a tent for the sun :  
**which comes out as a bridegroom from his chamber,**  
**and rejoices like a strong man to run his course.**  
Its rising is at one end of the heavens,  
and its circuit to their farthest bound :  
**and nothing is hidden from its heat.**  
The law of the Lord is perfect, reviving the soul :  
**the command of the Lord is true, and makes wise the simple.**  
The precepts of the Lord are right, and rejoice the heart :  
**the commandment of the Lord is pure, and gives light to the eyes.** The fear of  
the Lord is clean, and endures for ever :  
**the judgements of the Lord are unchanging, and righteous every one.** More  
to be desired are they than gold, even much fine gold :  
**sweeter also than honey, than the honey that drips from the comb.** Moreover,  
by them is your servant taught :  
**and in keeping them there is great reward.**  
Who can know his own unwitting sins :  
**O cleanse me from my secret faults.**  
Keep your servant also from presumptuous sins,  
**lest they get the mastery over me :**  
**so I shall be clean, and innocent of great offence.**  
May the words of my mouth and the meditation of my heart  
be acceptable in your sight :  
**O Lord, my strength and my redeemer.**

#### SECOND READING 1 Corinthians 12: 12-31a

The word of the Lord  
**Thanks be to God.**

*Please stand for the gospel*

A reading from the gospel of our Lord Jesus Christ according to Luke.  
**Glory to you, Lord**

#### GOSPEL READING

The gospel of the Lord

Luke 4: 14-21

**Praise to you, Lord Jesus Christ**

HYMN

## SERMON

### THE RESPONSE TO GOD IN WORD AND ACTION

#### HYMN

*During the singing of this hymn our offering will be received. Remain standing for the dedication prayer.*

#### PRAYER OF DEDICATION

May our gifts offered here and offered through our lives of love and service bear witness to our unity of Spirit in you, Loving God. **Amen.**

#### PRAYERS OF INTERCESSION

Sisters and brothers,  
let us lift our hearts in faith  
to the one who hears all prayers  
and holds close all those in need.

We pray for those in need of healing.

We pray for those in need of hope.

We pray for those in need of comfort.

We pray for those in need of inspiration.

We pray for ourselves and those we love.

*A silence is kept*

Holy God, you gather the whole universe  
into your radiant presence through the life of Jesus, our Saviour,  
who brings healing and making whole all that is broken,  
speaking truth to all illusion,  
and shedding light in every darkness,  
so that all creation will see your glory and know your Christ. **Amen.**

#### THE LORD'S PRAYER (*printed inside cover of hymn book*)

### THE SENDING FORTH OF THE PEOPLE OF GOD

#### HYMN

#### SENDING OUT

Go now, and live as one body in Christ.  
Be at peace, and care for one another;  
Suffer with one another and rejoice with one another.  
Give your attention to the Word of God  
and proclaim the good news of freedom to all.

## BENEDICTION

And may God delight your heart and sharpen your vision;  
May Christ Jesus keep you, thought and word, in his grace;  
And may the Holy Spirit be the fountain that sustains us all  
and binds us together as one. **Amen.**

*You are invited to be seated for the playing of the postlude,  
or to leave at this point without disturbing those who wish to listen*

## POSTLUDE

*Please stand as the Bible is taken from the church*

Presiding Minister  
Scripture Reader  
Soloist  
Organist

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*Please join us for tea or coffee and fellowship in the Lounge after the service.*